

## **Summary of Proposed Ordinance Relating to Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas**

This summary applies to the proposed Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas Ordinance dated September 30, 2003, and fulfills the state Growth Management Act and King County Code 20.18.100 requirement for a "plain language" summary.

The proposed Critical Aquifer Recharge Ordinance amends the existing Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas regulations (K.C.C. 20.70) and relocates the ordinance within the County's Critical Areas Ordinance. These regulations establish the basic land use standards and requirements for protecting the County's aquifers.

Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas are areas the County has identified as being the lands where the most critical groundwater recharge occurs for replenishment of aquifers that are used locally for potable water supply.

The amendments proposed by the Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas Ordinance are intended to increase the protection of groundwater quality and quantity consistent with state and federal requirements.

### **Amendment to K.C.C. chapter 21A.XX, "Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas"**

**Section 201** – Creates a new chapter in Title 21A and moves existing code sections into that chapter.

**Section 202** – Critical aquifer recharge areas – maps adopted. (*K.C.C. 20.70.020*) Adopts the proposed new critical aquifer recharge area maps. Allows for future amendments.

**Section 203** – Critical aquifer recharge areas – declassification. (*new*) Provides a procedure for a property owner to request that a critical aquifer recharge area classification be changed or removed. The request must be supported by a critical areas report including a hydrogeologic site evaluation. Also provides that the critical aquifer recharge area map shall be updated to reflect any changes that result from a petition for declassification.

**Section 204** – Critical aquifer recharge areas – categories. (*new*) Establishes two categories of critical aquifer recharge areas and outlines the criteria used for determining the category.

**Section 205** – Critical aquifer recharge areas – King County Code provisions adopted. (*K.C.C.20.70.030*) Acknowledges existing King County Code provisions that provide additional protection for critical aquifer recharge areas.

**Section 206** – Repeals K.C.C. 20.70.50 – a restatement of existing clearing restrictions. K.C.C. 20.70.030 is amended by section 205 of this ordinance to include a reference to existing clearing restrictions.

**Section 207** – Critical aquifer recharge areas – Development regulations. (*new*) Limits the Establishes limits on the types of activities that are allowed in the different classes of critical

aquifer recharge area. The following are some of the new activities or land uses that are not allowed in at least one of the classes of critical aquifer recharge areas :

- Hazardous liquid transmission pipelines
- Mining below the water table;
- Processing, storage, or disposal of radioactive waste;
- Golf courses;
- Cemeteries;
- Wrecking yards; and
- On-site septic systems on lots of less than one acre if the effluent levels from the septic system does not meet specific requirements for nitrate-nitrogen.

**Section 208** – Critical aquifer recharge areas – Evaluation and implementation. (*K.C.C. 20.70.0600* Provides that King County will evaluate and implement groundwater management plans and wellhead protection programs to further protect groundwater resources.

**Section 209** – Repeals K.C.C. 20.70.200 – Severability clause.